

**North Carolina Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council**  
**Royster Building, Room 210, Dix Campus**  
**January 6, 2006**  
**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Libby Jones, Kaye Holder, Tisha O’Neal Gamboa, Eileen Silber, Jeff McCloud, Diann Irwin, Pat Solomon, Esther High, Dan Fox, Carolyn Wiser, Lucy Dorsey, William Jones, Ed Seavey, Dr. Martin Pharr, Sheila Wall-Hill, Laura White, Patricia Harris, Mark Urban, Emily Moore and Frank Read.

**Others:** Candace Stowell (filling in for Mary Rea Todd), Karen Stallings, Kent Earnhardt, Cecilia Burress, Chris Rakes, Joe Donovan, Gerae Condron, Christina Carter, Ann Remington, Carl Britton Watkins, Diane Watkins, Shealy Thompson, Adolph Simmons, Jr., and Tom Palombo.

**Staff to Council:** Susan Robinson, Rhoda Miller, and Lisa Jackson.

**Call to Order/Introductions/Approval of Minutes**

Libby Jones, Chair of the Council, called the meeting to order. She welcomed everyone. Minutes from the November 4, 2005 meeting were approved and accepted as written, with prior discussion around the specificity of the minutes.

**Presentations**

Speakers from the Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services and from the North Carolina State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee gave presentations and answered questions in response to Council members’ previous requests for information that was discussed at the November Council meeting.

Christina Carter, Implementation Manager for the Division, spoke about the new enhanced service definitions getting approved and about the need for the system to move forward; we are in a time of “historical shift” as person centered planning and the focus on recovery take their place in the forefront of transformation. Christina stressed the importance of individuals, family members, and providers all needing to be at the table at one time in terms of giving their feedback and reiterated that the Division does seek and value consumer input. During the past four years, the state reform planning process included consumers and other stakeholders. This process shaped the proposed service array and definitions. In response to Council inquiry at this meeting, Christina indicated that consumers and family members would be represented in future planning sessions that involved activities to implement transformation regarding service definitions. Christina went on to speak about the process for endorsement of providers of mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services that are reimbursable by Medicaid. Beginning in January, the Division will endorse those LMEs who are still providing Medicaid reimbursable services. LMEs will be responsible for monitoring their providers. In terms of funding, Christina explained that the Division has only **one** LME that has single stream funding and that is Smoky Mountain Center. Four other

LMEs have submitted requests to the division to be considered for implementing a flexible funding plan but final decisions have not been made.

Adolph Simmons, from the Quality Management Team (Adolph.Simmons@ncmail.net), described his role at the Division as helping to strengthen performance measures. He indicated that this is true for our data and information systems as well and applies to both providers and LMEs. State agencies need to be data driven. Adolph went on to say that with the capability to do trend reports, staff are in a better position to be able to approach the legislature about funding requests when hard data is available through trending. Adolph also works with the System of Care (SOC) child community reviews.

Tom Palombo, from the Information Systems Team: Systems Operations (Tom.Palombo@ncmail.net), spoke about the Division's Decision Support Information System and how different sources of information flow into Common Name Data Service or CNDS (The Dept. of Health and Human Services created the CNDS in the year 2000 to better serve individuals and better track people who have had services reported in multiple databases across the State.). Information sources may include (but are not limited to) our customer satisfaction surveys, information from our LMEs, Integrated Payment Reporting System and from North Carolina's Treatment Outcomes and Program Performance System (NC TOPPS) which measures outcomes and performance for Substance Abuse and Mental Health consumers. Tom went on to show Council members slides illustrating how results from the consumer satisfaction surveys can be used to track the National Outcome Measures or NOMS which are important indicators in utilizing Mental Health Block Grant funds.

Shealy Thompson, Quality Management Team Leader (Shealy.Thompson@ncmail.net), spoke about the North Carolina Treatment Outcomes and Program Performance System or NC TOPPS and brought draft copies of reports on Adolescent (age 12-17) Mental Health Consumers and Adult Mental Health Consumers for the period 07/01/05 through 11/30/05. NC TOPPS information is gathered initially when an individual enters services and then at intervals, such as 3 months, 6 months, etc. This instrument is more user-friendly and lends itself well to person centered planning and collecting developmental types of information. Shealy discussed how there are consumers on the Mental Health Committee to establish the measures for the Mental Health Block Grant. Data from NC TOPPS can be used to score LMEs, as well as develop a statewide average. Eventually, the goal is to be able to do this at a provider level as well.

Ann Remington, Consumer Empowerment Team Leader (ann.remington@ncmail.net) and Carl Britton Watkins spoke about the State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee; Carl is a member of the State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee, as well as the local CFAC in Rockingham County. The State CFAC was started in 2004 and has members serving on workgroups and committees within the Division (e.g., Child Mental Health, Substance Abuse Task Force, Work Force Development, etc.). Originally, Ann's team came on board after the CFACs were established. Her staff are located all around the State and one of their jobs is to provide technical assistance to local CFACs as well as supporting consumer and family opportunities to provide input into the

mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services in a varies of ways (a list of which was included in their packet); Council members are welcome to contact any of Ann's staff. Ann's message to the Council was to stress the importance of consumer and family involvement in Division workgroups. The Advocacy Organization Database is a means to provide opportunities for individuals to participate in Division workgroups, committees, etc. This can be found on the Division website for individuals and groups to enter their information: <https://www.ncdmh.net/advocacy/>. Carl stated that the State CFAC has provided opportunity for consumers from across the state to work together to review policies, to provide input into trends studied and to have representatives serve on committees (such as those working with Quality Management Team on outcomes and consumer satisfaction and the Child MH Plan Implementation Team, which both have significant impact on state plan implementation).

### **Medicare Part D Prescription Plan Coverage**

William Jones gave an overview presentation on the process of selecting and signing up for a prescription plan; he also provided each member with a full color, professionally printed booklet entitled "Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, A Workbook for Mental Health Consumers" printed by the National Mental Health Association. For anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the workbooks, please contact the National Mental Health Association in Alexandria, VA at 1-800 969-NMHA (6642) or via email at: [www.nmha.org](http://www.nmha.org) (note: there is also a link about Medicare Part D on our public website, which has an accessible on-line copy of the workbook that Bill handed out; the website has North Carolina specific information on it as well).

### **Implementation Report/Review**

Susan Robinson and Lisa Jackson presented each Council member in attendance with a bound and printed copy of the North Carolina Community Mental Health Services Block Grant Implementation Report for SFY 04-05. The question of having a type of "cheat sheet" or brief one page "crosswalk" outline to use in reviewing the Block Grant came up and one good resource in response to this question is to utilize the National Outcome Measures Table (excerpt from the Mental Health Services Block Grant instructions for 05-06). There is a very tight window of time in which data can be formatted and sent to Susan and Lisa for inclusion in the Implementation Report before the Report is actually due. Concerns were expressed that Adult Committee conference call input had been left out of the Implementation Report (editorial note: Lisa did go back and check her notes; notes from the Adult Committee conference call were summarized and were included in the Report).

### **Future Agenda Planning**

In March, Judy Stange or her designated staff from the National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils will be coming to North Carolina to do training with our Planning Council.

The Council discussed resuming work in child/family and adult committees in May and August, to address specific goals and outcomes in order to make progress on plan review, implementation and reporting.

**Wrap-Up**

Libby Jones wrapped up the meeting, thanking everyone for their participation. There was further discussion by Planning Council members regarding ways to structure meetings in order to ensure that issues relevant to the responsibilities of the Planning Council are addressed, including the handling of correspondence sent on the Council's behalf.

**Handouts**

1. 01-06-06 MHPC Meeting Agenda
2. 11-04-05 Draft MHPC Minutes
3. National Outcome Measures Table
4. Proposed LME Map/Consumer Empowerment Team Field Office Map
5. Overview of Data Systems
6. Decision Support Information System
7. Consumer & Family Advisory Committee handouts (State and local)
8. NC TOPPS Draft Reports (Adult and Adolescent)
9. Medicare Part D Booklet (available upon request from the National Mental Health Association or downloadable from the Medicare Part D link in the Division website)
10. Single Stream Funding, CTSP, and Family Advocacy
11. Implementation Report for SFY 04-05